

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

As provided in accompanying documents, Applicants provide corrected drawings for Figs. 2 and 3C.

REMARKS

In this Response, Applicants submit corrected drawings for Figs. 2 and 3C and reply to the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action.

Extension of Time

As provided in accompanying documents, Applicants request a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) in which to file this Response.

Drawings

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for Figs. 2 and 3C because they lack clarity. In reply, Applicants amend the drawings to enhance their clarity. Applicants consider the corrected drawings to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84.

Applicant's Reply to Examiner's Comments in Advisory Action

Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider his comments regarding the sufficiency of Applicants' Responses. As the Examiner should well know, Applicants' Responses comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and all other relevant statutes and regulations.

Applicants draw the attention of the Examiner to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(b), which requires the Applicants to "reply to *every ground of ... rejection* in the prior Office Action." Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Applicants are not required to reply to every applied prior art reference.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 1 and dependent claims 5 and 7 over Applicants' Admissions and Beaverstock, dependent claims 2-4 further in view of Hansen, and dependent claim 6 further in view of Taulbee.

In Applicants' Response to the Final Office Action, Applicants specifically identified the errors in the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 over Applicants' Admissions and Beaverstock. Since dependent claims 2-7 include all of the features of independent claim 1, and since the Examiner's rejections of dependent claims 2-7 are based on Applicant's Admissions and Beaverstock, the errors that are present in the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 are also present in the Examiner's rejections of dependent claims 2-7. Applicants did, therefore, respond to all of the Examiner's rejections in a manner consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(b) by

specifically identifying the errors in the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 over Applicants' Admissions and Beaverstock.

CONCLUSION

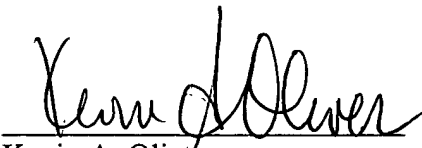
Based on the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned Attorney if any issues are deemed to remain prior to allowance.

Date: May 12, 2004

Customer No. 25,181
Patent Group
Foley Hoag LLP
155 Seaport Blvd.
Boston, MA 02210
Tel: (617) 832-1241
Fax: (617) 832-7000

Respectfully submitted,
FOLEY HOAG LLP


Kevin A. Oliver
Reg. No. 42,049
Attorney for the Applicant